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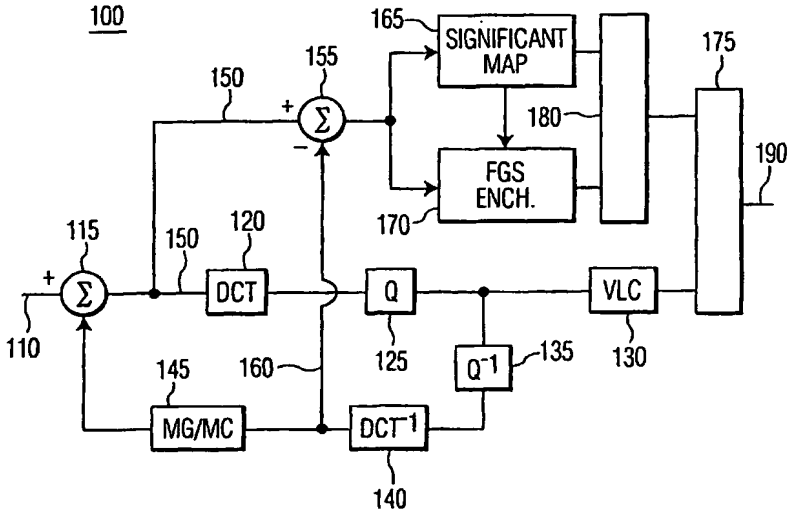
[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LAYERED VIDEO ENCODING



(57) Abstract: In a layered encoding system having at least one layer comprising a plurality of sub-layers (272, 274, 276), a method is disclosed herein for encoding a video image (200) composed of a plurality of pixel blocks containing at least one area determined to be significant (200, 215, 220) within a corresponding sub-layer (272, 274, 276). The method comprises the steps of; associating a level of significance with each block (250, 252) of a known size within the at least one significant area (200), associating a level of significance with successively larger blocks (222, 244) dependent upon the level of significance of at least one of the blocks (250, 252) of a known size contained within said larger block (222, 244), and mapping each of the associated levels of significance. In another embodiment of the invention, the significance map is transmitted and corresponding image layers may be reconstructed using the significance map.

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, INSPEC, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	--- -/--	4

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. [X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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